Intro: You're having another nightmare. There have been so many lately, but this one might be the worst yet. Just as you're certain nothing could get worse, though, something seems to shake you awake. You can't move, and there's a shadowy figure with glowing eyes at the foot of your bed. Oh, great, sleep paralysis again. This has been happening way too often lately, but… wait. Are you hearing… a voice?

Summary: Listener is woken up from a terrible nightmare by a sleep paralysis demon who isn't so demonic. She pines for a little bit, and then comforts him back to sleep.

TWs: Nightmare, sleep paralysis (are either of those triggering?), something that might be considered stalking? Not certain how to classify that. This is not intended to be a scary script.

Line breaks represent the listener talking or space where no one talks and should be short pauses, words within {brackets} represent the speaker's tone or sfx. At ellipses, the speaker trails off, and at dashes, she is either cut off abruptly by the listener or by herself.

Author's Note: You say rushed and incoherent, I say short and sweet, who's to say which one of us is right? This genre has a lot, and by that I mean a *lot* of different entries, but I thought I'd write my own take on it. I like the idea of the sleep paralysis demon being the thing that wakes you up from a nightmare, not the cause of it or anything messed up like that. Also, for those who might ask how she can tell what the Human's thinking… she's had a lot of practice having this conversation. Per usual, if you have any criticisms of the script, please don't hesitate to let me know, I'd love to hear them and improve.

{from far away} {urgent} Human! Human! Wake up! Please! Human! You need to wake *{snap to normal voice}* up!

{everything from here on out is soft spoken or whispered, your choice} {relieved sigh} Thank the Titans. I feared I wouldn't be able to rouse you. *{soothing}* Human, you were having a nightmare, but it's over now. You're awake. You're safe. You're lying on a comfortable bed in a warm room with no monsters in sight. Nothing will hurt you now. You're safe.

{resigned} I can tell you're still afraid. Of me, most likely. I doubt I look like anything recognizable right now. But I promise you, you don't have to be. I couldn't harm you, even if I wished to.

{gentle} I wish you remembered me as more than the shadowy figure hovering by your bed. I wish you remembered my voice. I wish that, every time I woke you out of a nightmare, you didn't look on me with confusion and fear. But all of those are my own selfish desires. Most of all, I wish you weren't scared right now.

I can see the question in your gaze. *{amused}* No, Human, I can't read your thoughts, but I've gotten very good at telling what you're thinking. You have very expressive eyes. *{quietly}* Such beautiful eyes…

Now your question is entirely different. *{contemplative}* I'm… well, I think you would call me a sleep paralysis demon, but I'm not sure how accurate that is. I don't think I'm a demon. Then

again, I don't exactly know what I am, either, so it's possible. All I know is I can't seem to leave this house, and you can't see me when you're fully awake. I can't see you as well as I'd like to, then, either. It's like there's some kind of veil between us. It makes you hazy, indistinct. It lifts when you're asleep, though. While you sleep, I can see you perfectly. *{happy sigh}*

{concerned} Oh. Now you look… repulsed? No… I think you would label that expression 'creeped out.' Please, don't be. I watch over you. You can think of me like a guardian angel. I pulled you out of that nightmare, didn't I? And before you think of it, no, Human, I'm not keeping you paralyzed. I don't know why your body does this. Maybe I'm not supposed to interact with you at all, and this is just what happens when someone who's not fully here tries to change things.

{contemplative} I don't really know why I'm here. I don't remember anything before this place. I just… woke up in your house one day, and I've been here ever since. For a while, I thought the Titans had blessed me, getting to be close to you. *{sad}* But recently I realized it's more like a curse.

I can be around you, but you never see me. You never know I'm here with you. You never even remember my voice, you just remember me as the monster by your bed when you can't move after a nightmare. I've heard you complaining about sleep paralysis to your friends. I don't think it ever occurred to you that your demon could have been trying to protect you. It hurts, sometimes, to be in love with someone who quite literally has no idea you exist.

{gentle} Now you look even more confused. Because I said I'm in love with you? How could I not be? You're wonderful. You're so kind and gentle, and your face, when I can see it clearly, is nothing short of beautiful. *{sad}* I couldn't help falling in love with you, but maybe that was the worst thing that could have happened. After all, Human, I'll never be anything to you, except when you're still half-asleep.

{surprised} Oh! I'm sorry! I didn't even realize, I'm still incorporeal. What do I look like to you, a pillar of shadows? That's no form to have a conversation in. *{apologetic}* I meant to do this completely differently, but waking you took… more effort than I expected. That nightmare really didn't want to let you go. I think I've regained enough strength now, though. I can… *{quiet wind sfx}*

There. This form is much nicer. *{interested}* Do I look less threatening now? Do I even look… attractive? I'm fairly sure I've emulated a human female correctly, but what I think doesn't matter if you don't think it looks right.

{pleased} Oh. You look happy with this. I'm glad. I was worried the proportions were off, but you don't seem upset at all. *{concerned}* Oh- you're staring now. That's the part I thought I got wrong. I can change it, if you think- No? It's good? All right, then.

{gathering courage} If you're okay with it, Human, could I maybe… get in the bed with you? I wouldn't want to do anything that would scare you, of course, so if you still don't want me too near, I don't have to. But I do want to make you feel better, after the fright that nightmare gave

you. *{thinking}* …Hmm, I think you're agreeing, but I can't be sure, and your comfort is too important to risk on a guess. How about this: If I can get in the bed with you, blink three times.

{pleased} Oh, perfect! Let me just…

There, let me nestle in beside you. *{content sigh}* *{relaxed}* You're very warm, Human. Holding you feels… nice. Like I'm cuddling a living flame. I hope it feels nice for you, too. I may not be made of flesh, but I am still soft, and I fit against you perfectly.

I wish you could hold me as I hold you. Your arms around me, being enveloped by your warmth… I would greatly enjoy that. Your body remains frozen, though. Maybe someday it will be possible, but until then, this will do.

{loving} I know that in the morning, none of this will remain for you to remember. All that's left will be fear from the nightmare and a terrifying demon watching you from the end of your bed. I wish it could be otherwise, but some things just are. For now, though, let me hold you. Let me stroke your hair and drive the last of your fear away. I am here with you, and here I'll stay for as long as I can. Let me hold you as you drift off to sleep, Human, and try to remember:

I am here for you.

I want to protect you.

I want to make you comfortable.

You are important to me.

I find you perfect the way you are.

I am blessed to be able to hold you.

{trailing off} I love you… I love you… I love you… I love you…